

ECAC Project Team Charges

Draft For 2/21/12 ECAC Meeting Discussion

Project Team—Screening and Assessment

The Screening and Assessment Project Team is focused on designing and implementing a comprehensive screening and assessment system to identify young children's individual needs and facilitate referrals to appropriate services. To date, the Team has developed and recommended a screening timeline, proposed criteria for selecting developmental screening tools for all early childhood programs and started developing guidance for community-wide approaches.

ECAC Goal: Wisconsin will have better and more consistent information about young children at key developmental milestones.

2012 Charge: Develop cross-sector approaches to implement the recommended screening and assessment schedule

Define structures and processes to ensure alignment with screening and assessment methods in early childhood programs and services, including Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (LDS), YoungStar, HealthCheck (EPSDT), home visiting, early childhood mental health, Child Find (for children with disabilities) and kindergarten assessment

Provide advice in planning for a statewide, comprehensive Kindergarten assessment system

Project Team— Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (EC LDS)

The Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System team is responsible for developing a process for sharing data across various programs and services to better support high quality early learning and developmental experiences. Their current focus is on identifying data elements collected by existing programs, identifying gaps in data, developing a broad set of questions the data can answer and creating an organizational structure to accomplish the ECAC goal.

ECAC Goal: Wisconsin will be able to measure child outcomes across systems to evaluate young children's progress and inform policy decisions.

2012 Charge: Complete data mapping and identification of gaps; develop strategies for linking data across systems/departments and the required governance structure, as reflected in the work plan

Develop a strategic implementation plan, including recommendations for funding and sustainability

Project Team—Public/Private Partnership

The Public/Private Partnership Team has documented the success of other states that have combined public and private efforts to significantly enhance the well-being of young children. A draft report, released last fall, provides a road map for how such a partnership might function in Wisconsin.

- ECAC Goal: Wisconsin will generate private investments targeted toward desired priorities and outcomes.
- 2012 Charge: Develop protocols for establishing a public/private board/entity, including operating principles
- Develop a strategic process for leveraging, generating and distributing public and private investments in early childhood priorities
- Develop a strategic process for engaging communities in efforts to improve early childhood programs and services

Project Team—Professional Development Initiative

Wisconsin has had a robust initiative focused on enhancing the quality of the early childhood workforce for many years. Most recently, this project team completed a cross-sector professional development scan and initiated a higher education scan to document early childhood professional development structures and begin to make recommendations for better alignment of efforts for continued quality improvement.

- ECAC Goal: Ensure access for early childhood providers to cross-sector, culturally and linguistically appropriate professional development opportunities.
- 2012 Charge: Develop strategies for implementing cross-sector training, communities of practice, coaching and mentoring.
- Provide advice in the redesign of the state teacher licensing and approval process and alignment with the early childhood education associate degree programs in technical college.
- Provide advice in the development of credit-based and credential alternative pathways in addition to teacher licensing.

Project Team—Preventive Oral Health

The Preventive Oral Health team grew from Head Start priorities and grass root initiatives in several communities across Wisconsin to develop strategies for preventing dental cavities and diseases and, subsequently, improving the oral health of young children.

- ECAC Goal: Wisconsin children will be physically, socially and emotionally healthy.
- 2012 Charge: Assist communities in implementing evidence-based preventive oral health services to young children and document process and results to inform recommendations for replication in other communities and/or statewide implementation.

Project Team—Preventing Childhood Obesity

The draft *Wisconsin Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity State Plan 2012-2020*, developed by a wide array of stakeholders, includes a specific robust agenda for early childhood settings to address the state's obesity epidemic among children. More specifically, this team has been focused on increasing and improving activities in early childhood settings (group and family child care centers) to prevent and address obesity in young children. This team is also engaged in building a diverse stakeholder group, the Wisconsin Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative, to address obesity throughout the early care and education system.

ECAC Goal: Wisconsin children will be physically, socially and emotionally healthy.

2012 Charge: Develop evidence-based recommendations and cross-sector implementation strategies for improving nutrition and physical activity to prevent obesity among young children

Document process and results to inform recommendations for statewide implementation

Project Team—Family and Community Partnerships

Preparation of the federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge application identified an array of activities and initiatives to engage families and communities in young children's learning and development. This is a new project team with the initial charge stated below.

ECAC Goal: Wisconsin families will be supported in providing healthy, stable and nurturing environments for their children.

2012 Charge: Explore existing models and practices for family engagement in early childhood programs, including standards, training requirements, results and resources and make recommendations for alignment and possible implementation of one or more approaches.

Note: Since the Ad Hoc Committee on Home Visiting has met its initial goals of increasing evidence-based programs for at-risk families, creating a robust infrastructure to support existing and new programs, and implementing strategies for measuring progress, they will not continue as a Project Team, but will continue to provide guidance as needed. Periodic updates will continue to be provided to the ECAC.

**Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council
Project Team Discussion
February 21st, 2012**

Project Team:	
Comments on Charge:	
Possible Co-Chairs:	
Possible Membership:	
Possible Outcomes:	